

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

OL 4, NO. 13

264

FEBRUARY 15, 1953

CIO Leader Installs Officers; Praises I-S Past Gains, Confident Of Future

New Board

The following are the members elected to the Executive Board at Divisional Meetings held up to February 6th:

Jamaica

Anthony LaSalvia
Edward Hansel
Virginia Braunberg

White Plains

James Heleringer
Peter Gilhooley
Helen Ruderman

Passenger Elevators

Harry Webster

3rd Floor

Ed Curry
Faber Greenberg
Katherine Blatt

6th Floor

Morris Telzer
Earl Fulford
Dick Vaughn*

7th Floor

Robert Phillips
Elizabeth Hammond
Joseph Dell Armo*

*On Floor Committee but not on the Executive Board.



CIO Regional Director Michael Mann (back to camera) administers oath of office to Local I-S leaders. From left to right: Frank Milza, Jack Fox, Iris Carter, George Gurian, Sam Kovenetsky, Phil Hoffstein, May Fisher, Catherine Hall, Otto Doempke, Felice de Felice and Tony Gentile. Absent due to illness were Lillian Branca and Arne Nilsen, both of whom will be sworn in at the earliest possible moment.

Less than seventy-two hours after the contract between Local I-S and Macy's expired the thirteen newly elected or re-elected officers of the Union took their oath of office in a simple ceremony presided over by CIO's New York Regional Director Michael Mann.

With a full awareness of the importance of the difficult tasks which lie ahead, the group solemnly sworn to "... remain true to the principles of trade unionism which unite us—the principles of brotherhood and the principle of fighting together in defense of our rights as workers ..."

Before declaring the candidates-elect officially installed in office, Brother Mann told them that, "While Local I-S is not the largest

A Big Fraction!

One of the Union's demands in negotiations will be for inclusion of Monday-Thursday-Saturday onlies in the bargaining unit. The Local I-S demand that these fractional workers receive the protection of the contract will be strengthened by the fact that more than 800 signed applications for membership have already been received from this group!

Party Follows

Immediately after the formal inauguration many friends and well-wishers surrounded the officers to shake their hands and offer their congratulations. Impromptu parties sprang up, with many toasts to the Union's new officers and to successful negotiations.

Through the gaiety there was a general awareness that the Union is now in the twilight zone of the automatic sixty day extension of the contract and that the end of March will bring with it the complete end of any contractual relationship with the company.

With this sobering thought in mind many of the celebrants told the officers that, "The members are right with you. We are ready to fight as never before, and we won't stop fighting until we win!"

Mobilization Groups Forming To Prepare Union's Strike Machinery

As one of the first concrete steps towards building a well organized apparatus capable of dealing with a strike situation if one should arise, Local I-S has sent out a Union-wide call for volunteers to staff the various sub-committees of its Mobilization Committee.

The participation of as many members as are willing to devote themselves to the job of blueprinting a preparedness program is welcomed by the Union. Volunteers are being recruited at each Divisional Meeting, at which time they indicate the area in which they would prefer to work. Among the sub-committees are those that will deal with Welfare, Record and Clerical, Publicity, Recreation, Headquarters and Picketing.

The volunteers working in each of those groups will be responsible for preparing a program of action. If a strike is approved by the membership all the committees will be enlarged, with the original group of volunteers becoming the leaders responsible for directing the successful carrying out of the program they had planned.

The initial planning meeting of the Mobilization Committee will be

held at the conclusion of the present series of Divisional Meetings, at which time Union representatives from all sections of all the stores will be on hand.

In recommending the immediate activation of the Mobilization Committee, President Sam Kovenetsky said, "I don't want any member to be stampeded by this action. It is not to be taken as a sign that we have reached the end of our rope in negotiations before talks have really begun. But, looking ahead, it is urgent that we be fully prepared for whatever may come."

"We must do all we can to avoid being thrown into a state of confusion if action should suddenly become necessary. Careful planning will serve as another warning to Macy's that we are prepared to do anything we have to in order to win a decent contract."

How We Mobilize

While no previous experience is necessary in order to do a job on any of the sub-groups of the Mobilization Committee, it is especially important that those Union members who have had experience sign up and prepare to give leader-

ship to those who are new at it.

At the first meeting of the Committee there will be an over-all briefing of the job to be done. After that, each of the sub-committees will meet to begin to plan their own work. It is at this point that the volunteers will begin to make their contribution, in terms of the ideas they may have and in terms of the skill with which they are able to convert ideas into reality.

By readying a strike plan blueprint in advance, every Union member can feel assured that if the time comes when they feel they must vote for a strike they can do so with the knowledge that the ground-work has been well prepared. Such guarantees as free medical aid and other forms of welfare assistance are vital to the success of a walk-out. Adequate recreational and headquarters facilities and a clerical system that guarantees that every member is doing his part are also keys to success.

The volunteer members of the Mobilization Committee will have the important job of building and keeping well-oiled machinery they hope will never be used.

Excuse, Please

As Local I-S makes the shift from the old to the new system of record keeping, new stress is being placed on the need for full accounting of absences from meetings. While the new system will maintain accurate records of those who are present, it is up to each individual to make sure that excuses for absence are filed at the Union office, in writing, within five days before or five days after the date of the missed meeting. Only unexcused absence is liable to the Constitutional assessment of \$2 to the Union's Welfare Fund.

**BE WISE . . .
SAVE MONEY . . .
FREE EXPERT TAX AID**

**at the
UNION OFFICE**

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
From 4:00 p.m.**

**Tax Forms
Will Be Available
Be Sure to Bring Your
Withholding Statement**

BRANCH STORE NEWS

PARKCHESTER

Now that the elections are over and things have quieted down for a while it is up to us to see that negotiations go along smoothly and with progress. Now — at least — let's be on our toes . . . Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mrs. Sippel of P4 on her double loss and to Mrs. O'Sullivan of the Packing Unit on the loss of her uncle . . . On the happy side is the engagement of Betty Orlando of the Packing Unit to former 1-S'er Tony Ferrante. Congratulations, kids — and the very best of everything . . . Mrs. Nackman of P10 became a Grandma for the second time (another girl). Congrats, Nana . . . Speedy recovery to Mary Clark, who is in the hospital . . . Mrs. Rodrigues of P19 attended a shower given for her little daughter, Pat. She's another of "our" girls who is about to take the plunge. Best of everything, Pat—and you too, Mom . . . What with all the executive changes taking place in the store the sales help is hopping, too. Rose Lothario, formerly of P7 is now on the Flying Squad. Her first assignment was pots and pans, where she was warmly welcomed to the "salt mines" . . . Let's not ease up on our Defense Fund payments. The critical hour is getting closer and closer, so let's let Macy's know where we stand—RIGHT WITH THE UNION!



Margaret Lyons

FLATBUSH



Mel Meinyk

The Flatbush Fraternity wishes to extend their warmest wishes, and the best of luck to a great guy, Phil Hoffstein . . . The Flatbush Men's Bowling Club challenges any of the Branch Stores to a team match. If interested, get in touch with Oscar Meittinen — Men's Store . . . Three top bowlers are Pete Schaefer, Sy Babenco and Oscar Meittinen . . . We have a pretty athletic group out here. Anyone interested in playing handball, see Bill Defarari . . . Casino is back again in the Rose Room . . . I wonder why the doubling up of executives? . . . Congratulations, Peg Weber . . . Our deepest sympathies to Ann Bowen, Kay Avitto and Jane Maller, upon the untimely loss of their beloved ones . . . Back with us is Blanche Grimm, you look swell Blanche . . . Hey Paul Harding, get well soon. You have to bowl a winner. Who the heck is John Nickelbone? . . . Received a card from Helen McGrath, basking in the Florida sun . . . Let's not fall behind on our Defense Fund. I haven't heard of any laxity in Flatbush, so let's keep up the good work. . .

WHITE PLAINS

The elections of Store Committee are over and we have completely new leadership. Jim Heleringer is Chairman, Pete Gilhooley, Vice Chairman and Helen Ruderman Secretary. Hail the victors and the vanquished! . . . We wish a speedy recovery to Mrs. Healy of Fabrics, Mrs. Muir of Lingerie, Ruth Riley of Cosmetics, "Smitty" of Stationery and Marjorie Newcombe of Men's. Also to Rose Mathieu's husband . . . Congratulations to Mary Bologna of Controls and Joan Marshal of the Service Desk. Mary became the bride of Tom Berrelli on February 8 and Joan became the bride of Lt. Allan H. Robb, U.S.M.C. on the same date. Joan will take a leisurely motor trip to California with her husband, from where he will leave for overseas and Joan will return to us . . . Best of luck to Alice Colao of W10 on her recent engagement to Bill Kuhn and congratulations to Bill Bittner of Rugs on his engagement to Sally McLoughlin . . . Maureen Keehan of Accessories left to await the arrival of the long-legged bird and the girls sent her off well equipped with luggage and other essential items . . . Mrs. Neuberger of the Vault left for Lima, Peru to be at her son's wedding . . . Our new Store Committee is going to need the help of every member. Let's not sit back and complain and criticize—let's pitch in and help. Let's take our grievances to our Shop Stewards and really see that the contract is made to work while it lasts! And let's all work to build the Defense Fund—we may need it sooner than we think!

JAMAICA

Wonderful to see the kind of turn out we had here for our last Divisional Meeting. The hall was packed! President Sam Kovenetaky and Vice President George Gurian were present and the election of our Store Committee went off smoothly. Tony LaSalvia was re-elected Committee Chairman, Ed Hansel Vice Chairman and Virginia Braunberg re-elected Secretary. A team to win with! . . . We are all glad to see Michael Ciccio of J12 back with us — also Kate Brucato of J13 and Victoria Lito of J4. They had all been out ill . . . And we were sorry to learn that Lisa Svulon of the Adjustment Desk and Lillian Gonzales of J4 are out sick. Let's hope they'll be back with us soon . . . Best wishes and lots of luck to Alice Hughes formerly of J8 who left us for a new job . . . Some queries here and there about bowling, swimming or other such activity. If you're interested—contact me in the Tailor Shop and we'll see if we can get together and get something started . . . With negotiations just about ready to start, the Defense Fund is more important than ever. From the reports I've heard we're doing pretty good here in Jamaica, but there are still a couple of stragglers. Let's clean up the records and then keep them up to date. It may still be a cooold winter!



Alfred Chiarella

Macy Seeks To Scuttle Sick Pay In New Attack On Rights

Macy's top, middle and bottom executives are engaged in a campaign designed to destroy the contract and the worker's will to resist their threatened plan to cut wages.

While on the one hand they encourage executives to get away with as many violations of the agreement as they think they can, they have begun to turn the screws for the tightest kind of enforcement where it serves their purpose.

Latest in the series of "incidents" that could pave the way to open warfare is the company's attack on the Sick Leave Plan, provided for in the agreement.

Policy Change

Until recently it had been the policy of the company to pay sick leave benefits without demanding

"proof" in the form of doctor's certificates that workers had been genuinely ill. But when Eloise Verbeek of 158 Department returned to work on January 19, after a two-week illness, she was refused payment because she had not been attended by a physician! Miss Verbeek had simply followed the home-care instructions given her by the company's own doctor before she sent her home! To justify its position, Macy's did not point to the contract, but stated that they didn't have enough nurses to check the validity of each sick claim.

Past Practice

When this story came to light, the Local 1-S NEWS called on Shop Stewards in the Selling, Non-Selling and Office Divisions and asked them to interview workers

who had collected sick benefits. We personally interviewed several such people ourselves. In case after case we learned that workers who had been out ill, with or without a doctor's care, had collected their benefits.

We learned that Miss Verbeek herself, following an earlier illness, had received payment without the doctor's certificate now being demanded. Many of the workers interviewed pointed out that Macy's new policy would work great hardship in illnesses where home care and remedies are effectively used.

In such cases, they said, when there are five pay-less days before sick leave begins and then the reduced pay, Macy's would compel a worker to spend money on a doctor just in order to get a certificate proving that he was sick!

Making It Tough

"This is just another Macy move to make it as tough as they can for the people", said newly elected Vice President Phil Hoffstein. "They're trying to put the pressure on the people because the people are putting the pressure on them for raises and a better contract. By sticking together we will out-pressure them and win the things we want and need!"

1-S Doctor Group Gave Bus Drivers Lift In Strike

The Associated Physician's Medical Group, the same team of doctors that serves the members of Local 1-S and has won high praise, voluntarily offered the same fine service to the striking members of the Transport Workers Union during their recent strike against the bus companies.

Dr. Lawrence Essenson, Director of APMG, advised the Transport Workers that, "Our physicians feel that adequate medical care should not be withheld because of a lack of ability to pay for such care. Your members are free to use our facilities in accordance with the plan outlined . . ."

The striking drivers were completely dependent on such voluntary offers of medical aid, since they do not have a Health Plan, although their Blue Cross Hospital insurance remained in force throughout the strike.

HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office within 30 days from the end of the month in which you leave the store.

If you, or a member of your family covered by the Health Plan, enters the hospital you MUST call on the Union office for claim forms immediately on entering or as soon as possible thereafter.

Protect yourself—protect your family—protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time!

CREDIT UNION MEMBERS MEET; ELECT OFFICERS, PLAN DRIVE

A group of Credit Union members, determined to see their "bank" continue to grow, braved nasty mid-January weather to attend the second annual meeting and to elect or re-elect officers.

Macy's Execs Use Hit And Run Review Tactics

Like a pair of hit and run drivers, the buyer and assistant in Handkerchiefs at Herald Square handed in their resignations and ran after knocking Shop Steward Viola Giacalone down with two "MAS's" after more than five years of all "Excellent" ratings. Like a witness who does not want to be bothered with the search for truth, Macy's refuses to even grant a follow-up review, although no "record of interview" slips have ever become a part of Miss Giacalone's service record.

Macy's has closed its eyes to the fact that a departmental meeting with Assistant Superintendent Thompson produced only the strange answer that the company's executives would determine when the department was functioning properly, while a salesperson's sole function was to sell!

"Macy's hides behind its unjust job review system," said Administrator Tom Raffaele, who handled Miss Giacalone's grievance. "They don't care if it's fair or unfair. They use it to deny hard-earned merit raises. They use it to try to squeeze still more work out of the people who are already working harder and faster than ever. So long as job reviews are based on the "opinion" of executives, and so long as Macy's won't even grant a re-review when a pair of executives fly the coop, the Union is handicapped in the fight for justice. Let's remember this as we fight for a new and better contract that will give even better protection to the rights of all!"

**FREE
LEGAL AID CLINIC**
at the
UNION OFFICE
Every Wednesday
5 to 7 P.M.

A report by Mr. Irwin Levine, attorney and builder of Credit Unions for close to thirty years, painted a bright future for the 1-S organization. He indicated that based on the achievements of the Local 1-S Credit Union in its first twenty-eight months we could look forward to a thriving operation that would be able to meet almost all of the member's financial requirements in the not distant future.

Mr. Levine pointed to the rapid rate of growth, and urged that even greater efforts be made to acquaint all Union members with the advantages of banking in the Credit Union. One such advantage was immediately apparent when a 3% dividend was declared on the Credit Union's 1952 earnings.

Officers Elected

Elected or re-elected to Credit Union office were the following: President, Sam Kovenetky; Vice President, Elizabeth Hammond; Treasurer, Jack Schultz; Clerk, Kathryn Arendt. Other members of the Board of Directors are Anthony Burns, Berris Gordon (full time CU employee), Agnes Wagner, Dorothy Gilmore, Max Strick, Charles Metz and Jack Toucey.

On the Credit Committee are: Charles Boyd, Samuel Schwartz and Alphonso Ramsey.

On the Supervisory Committee are: Frank Milza, Louis Seitz and Anna May Lathrop.

Education Director is Dick Pastor.

How To Join

Payment of a twenty-five cent membership fee and a deposit of as little as twenty-five cents will open a Credit Union account. Interest is paid on every five dollars on deposit. After joining, deposits may be made through bonded collectors who will take your book and money, make your deposit and return your book. To join, come to the Credit Union office at 290 Seventh Avenue. For the name of your collector, see your Shop Steward or call WA 4-4540.

Board Acts In Discipline Cases; Group To Study "Delinquency"; Backs NAACP, Memorial Affairs

The Local 1-S Executive Board, at its regular meeting on January 30th voted to expel one member, referred charged against four others to the Trial Committee and received a notice of appeal from its decision in an earlier case. The Board also considered the problem of collecting fines and assessments from delinquent members, approved an end-of-the-year, end-of-term financial report, bought a bloc of tickets and agreed to help promote the annual affair of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and set up a committee to help guarantee the success of a dance whose proceeds will go toward the completion of the living memorial to the late William Cooper, past president of Local 1-S.

Expelled!

Harold Bliven, freight elevator operator, was expelled by a unanimous vote of the Board following a Trial Committee report of "delinquency" and "tampering with the records." When Bliven was first called before the Trial Committee he protested that he did not owe the \$20 he was billed for and offered a receipt to prove it.

The Committee expressed its regret, deeply apologized and was ready to close its books on the case. Before it did, the original receipt book was located and it was found that the date was back in 1946, not 1948 as it had appeared on Bliven's "proof" of innocence.

Called back before the Committee, Bliven asked for "time to think it over," admitted that he had made a "mistake" and agreed to make full restitution. Close to two months had passed in silence when the Trial Committee recommended that the Union close the case and deprive Bliven of the benefits of membership in Local 1-S.

Charges

Charged by Shop Steward Alfred Pettigean and co-workers on the 17th Floor Receiving with "acting in a manner harmful to the interests and welfare of the Union and/or its members" for their violation of a floorwide ban on overtime work were George Christian, Percy Bowman, Bartolomeo Suzzo and Bernardo del Savio. The ban on extra work had been voted by the members to protect the jobs of all. Violation by the foursome was met by charges signed by most workers on the floor. The case has been referred to the Trial Committee for a full hearing.

Appeal

The Executive Board, which had voted to dismiss the case against 7th Floor Committeeman Robert Brooks as "unsubstantiated" received notice of appeal from complainant Betty Nusio of the same floor. Her appeal from the ruling of the Board will be heard by the

membership at its meeting on Tuesday, April 7th.

Fight Discrimination

Anti-Discrimination Committee Chairman John Malone won the unanimous backing of the Board with his recommendation that Lo-

Rocker and all the other out-going officers of the Union for their "faithful and devoted service" to Local 1-S.

Protest

Also unanimously adopted was a motion expressing support to na-

heard by the Trial Committee and referred to it for final action, the Board approved the naming of a Committee to study ways and means of collecting fines and assessments without recourse to disciplinary action. It was understood, however, that the Union

Walking Delegate

Disturbed by the large number of Macy's executives who continue to do staff work in open violation of the contract, the Board voted in favor of having a Union staff member patrol the store at odd hours. This "walking delegate" would work to put an end to company violations and to help make Union members more aware of their own power to stop Macy's from breaking the contract.

Training Class

In line with vigorous contract enforcement the Board also agreed that the Union should conduct classes for all Board members and Shop Stewards to acquaint them with their rights and powers.



Partial view of nearly completed William Marion Cooper Memorial Hall, erected for benefit of underprivileged children, and financed by donations from members of Local 1-S in honor of one of their early leaders.

cal 1-S give its full support to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by buying a bloc of tickets and by selling other tickets for the annual Night of Stars, to be held at Madison Square Garden on Monday, March 23rd.

Tickets, which are on sale at the Union office, are priced at \$1.80, \$2.40 and \$3. Proceeds from the affair will help finance the Association's continuing fight against discrimination.

Cooper Memorial

In response to an invitation from Reverend Elder G. Hawkins, spiritual leader of the late William Cooper, past president of Local 1-S, the Executive Board voted unanimously to co-sponsor a dance, the funds of which will be used to complete the William Marion Cooper Memorial Hall and other buildings of the St. Augustine Presbyterian inter-faith, inter-racial camp for under-privileged children.

Local 1-S participation in the dance, which is to be held on Saturday, June 6, will be headed by a committee consisting of Sam Levine (2nd Floor), William Atkinson (5th Floor) and Alphonso Ramsey (Receiving).

Financial Report

Financial Secretary Charles Rocker and Trustees Lillian Branca, Anthony Burns and Earl Fulford joined in submitting the last financial report of the present term of office. A summary of the report appeared in the February 1st issue of the Local 1-S NEWS.

At the conclusion of the report the Executive Board gave a unanimous vote of thanks to Brother

tional CIO for its expressions of disapproval against reported racial and religious discrimination in various countries of Eastern Europe.

Fine Collectors

Concerned with the rising number of "delinquency cases" being

would still have the authority to take any necessary action against members who fall into bad standing because of refusal to pay established Union fees. On the Committee are Max Wald (Receiving), Estelle Sage (4th Floor) and John Malone (Display).

Arbiter's Speed-Up Award Can Be Vetoed By Workers

In a decision handed down on January 20, Arbitrator Abram Stockman ruled that the issues which led to the suspension of a White Plains Shop Steward and the lockout of close to 200 other workers last March were not arbitrable.

The practical effect of the arbitrator's decision is to give Macy's a green light in the assigning of display work to selling personnel. President Sam Kovenetsky addressed the following message to the membership upon receipt of Mr. Stockman's award:

"The arbitrator has only concerned himself with the strictly legal and very narrow aspects of interpretation of the contract. Despite the fact that this dispute shut down the White Plains store Mr. Stockman does not find that there is a dispute involving 'the construction, interpretation, validity or performance' of the agreement.

"This decision does not mean that a salesperson can in addition to his or her other duties perform display work. It means that when time is spent doing display work it will be at the expense of other duties remaining undone!

"Workers already kept busy with a full eight hours of work cannot be expected to accept new responsibilities on top of those they already have. If required stock work or any other responsibility suffers management will quickly decide that it is not to their advantage to expect display work of the sales force.

"If executives perform display work they must have a Union

member standing by doing nothing but watching! An executive doing staff work without a Union member in attendance is violating the contract.

"The arbitrator has given us a decision—but the final decision will be up to each individual worker. It is up to you to resist the speed-up by doing only one thing at a time, by doing it well and by remembering that if you try to do nine or ten hours of work in your eight hour day Macy's will find still more and more work for you, with layoffs for those unable or unwilling to commit suicide for Macy's. It's up to YOU!"

Working Conditions

Background to the President's warning is found in the Union's file of grievances dating back to the signing of the current contract in May, 1949. Case after case proves that where workers in a department acted together they were able to defeat company plans for an undesirable change in working conditions.

New significance is given the situation in light of the fact that the present automatic extension of the agreement expires at the end of March. Working without a contract will pose serious problems and will demand the closest kind of cooperation among all workers to keep the company from riding roughshod over them. In such a situation members of Local 1-S will determine the conditions under which they will work by determining in advance to let Macy's put nothing over on them.

FALSE RUMORS PUT DENT IN DEFENSE FUND

The news is bad from the battle front! Late reports indicate that Defense Fund receipts have fallen off during the last couple of weeks. Part of it is due to confusion created by unfounded rumors. Part of it to a badly timed let-up in the Union's defensive build-up.

The rumors, which may have been planted in the interests of the company, took some steam out of the drive when they led people to believe that Defense Fund payments were due to end in either January or February.

The truth is that the membership voted in favor of continuing the emergency effort UNTIL A CONTRACT IS SIGNED! This was based on the hard, cold fact that each passing month of negotiations increases the danger of a deadlock, and that the need for the largest possible fund grows as the danger grows.

Some members have eased up in their effort to help build the Fund because they didn't see "any immediate danger" in the situation.

This view failed completely to take into account that the only way the Defense Fund can grow to the point where it will be an effective weapon in the hands of the membership is by consistent, month-by-month collections.

In the main the collections remain firm, with most members only too anxious to do their part. It is generally agreed that the existence of the Fund is good insurance in case a strike becomes necessary. If no strike is necessary the Fund is to be liquidated and returned to the participating members.

Some bookkeeping problems have developed because receipts have been turned in with only last names. In order to be sure of being credited with your Defense Fund payment make sure that your FULL NAME AND STAFF NUMBER goes on every receipt!

WELFARE BOARD

Meets

Second Tuesday

of

Every Month

7 P.M.

at the

UNION OFFICE

LOCAL 1-S NEWS

Published Twice Monthly except June, July, August, when published monthly by

LOCAL 1-S, UNITED DEPARTMENT STORE WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO
290 Seventh Avenue New York 1, N. Y.

President: Sam Kovenetsky

1st Vice Pres.: Philip Hoffstein

2nd Vice Pres.: George Gurian

Editorial Board

Jerome Harle

Clarence Lanman

David Krakauer

Editor: Dick Pastor

Annual Subscription \$1

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office, New York, N. Y.

Fight To Save Rent Control Goes On After Poorly Planned First Round

By Administrator TOM RAFFAELE

I was sent to Albany to represent Local 1-S in the fight against rent increases. I went prepared to testify to the hardship that would be caused almost all of our members and their families if rents are de-controlled.

I was prepared to prove that we are able to buy less food, less clothing and spend less on other essentials now than we were two years ago. Before I left, Education Director Dick Pastor and I had prepared the facts and figures that showed clearly that the raises we have won since November, 1950 have not even made up for what we have lost as a result of higher prices of food alone. I was ready to offer proof that the low and middle income groups are spending a larger percentage of earnings to put food on their tables than ever before. With these facts in hand I was prepared to fight against any rent increases. I was prepared to ask for a moratorium on evictions—used by unscrupulous landlords to de-control apartments. I was ready to state our demand for full extension of rent control.

In spite of the wealth of detailed information I had at hand, I never got a chance to offer it to the State Committee that was conducting the open hearings.

I had to be content with a statement and a brief filed by the New York State CIO Legislative Representative on behalf of all CIO unions and their members.

The reason for this was simple. We, the representatives of labor and tenant organizations were outnumbered by the landlords. They did a better job of organizing and they made the most of it! They overflowed a special train taking them to Albany. We filled half a train. They were representing a small minority of our population. We were intent on speaking for a tremendous majority.

But the landlords got to Albany before us. They filled almost all the seats. We had to stand along the walls and out in corridors. They, with the cooperation of the Committee's chairman, almost monopolized the hearing by having speaker after speaker in favor of ending controls and allowing un-

limited increases.

A Flop

I believe we have to face the fact that from labor's point of view this hearing was a flop. We didn't use our organizing skill to mobilize the people. We underestimated the drive the landlords were making.

President Sam Kovenetsky, in his "State of the Union" report to the membership in January warned that all-out political action would be needed to defend our interests and our rights. He drew this conclusion from the way big-business was being called in to take over the running of our government. He was right, and this failure proves it!

It is possible that there will be another hearing. If there is, we must be there in the thousands. If there isn't, we must bombard our State Senators and Assemblymen with our demands that controls be continued and that no increases be granted. We must either defeat our landlord in Albany or see another chunk of our pay go up in inflationary smoke. It's up to us!

OFFICIAL NOTICE Divisional Meeting Schedule

This is the only official notice to be given for Divisional Meetings. Admission will be by 1953 Union card. liable to a \$2 assessment to Welfare Fund as provided in Article IX, Section 4 of the 1-S Constitution. **BE SURE TO ATTEND!**

GROUP	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Housekeeping***	Sun. Feb. 15	3:00	Auditorium
Flatbush	Mon. Feb. 16	6:45	Auditorium
Basement (FT-PT)	Tues. Feb. 17	6:45	Auditorium
9 Floor (Str. Sal)	Tues. Feb. 17	6:45	Conference
Str. Comm.	Fri. Feb. 20	6:45	Auditorium
Supply-FSM (FT-PT)	Fri. Feb. 20	6:30	Conference
8 Floor (FT-PT)	Wed. Feb. 25	6:45	Auditorium
4 Floor (FT-PT)	Fri. Feb. 27	6:45	Auditorium
Receiving	Tues. Mar. 3	6:30	Auditorium
Packing (FT-PT)	Wed. Mar. 4	6:45	Auditorium
Controllers*** (FT-PT)	Tues. Mar. 10	6:30	Auditorium
Mfg. (FT-PT)	Wed. Mar. 11	6:45	Auditorium
ASD (FT-PT)***	Wed. Mar. 18	6:30	Auditorium
DA-CT (FT-PT)***	Tues. Mar. 24	6:30	Auditorium
5 Floor (PT-FT)***	Wed. Mar. 25	6:30	Auditorium

*PT, Part-Time; FT, Full-Time.

**At Union Office, 290 7th Avenue (Between 26 and 27 Sts.)

***Changed date or Added Meeting.

ATTENTION!

SPECIAL NOTICE!! The Local 1-S Executive Board has voted in favor of combined Part-Time, Full Time Divisional meetings for the purpose of voting on new members of the Board. The decision is based on the belief that only in this way can Part Time workers be fully represented in the nominations and elections.

THE ABOVE REVISED SCHEDULE IS THE OFFICIAL LOCAL 1-S WINTER DIVISIONAL SCHEDULE. All future meetings other than those at which Executive Board elections are held will be on the usual split shift basis.

PERSONALS

WANTED—4 room apartment desperately needed for young couple and two year old child, in the vicinity of Astoria or city if possible. Phone AS 4-7776.

WANTED—2½ or 3 unfurnished rooms in Manhattan. Call Irene Barrow, BE 6-8894 after 7 P.M.

FOR RENT—Small sunny room, private shower and toilet. Eleven building, 10 minute subway ride to Herald Square. Reasonable. Call TR 4-1822 after 6:30 P.M.

FOR RENT—2 furnished rooms, kitchen privileges, private entrance. 2120 Ave. Y, Brooklyn. Phone NI 8-6349.

FOR SALE—1952 Hyde Park 17 in. TV set and table. Both in perfect condition. \$125. Call Jacques Levy, ST 9-9637 after 6:30 P.M.

FOR SALE—1947 4-door Kaiser sedan. Radio, Heater. Good condition. \$300. Call ST 4-0354 evenings.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

MEDICAL PLAN—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist or podiatrist nearest you **CALL** the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request. **BLOOD BANK**—if you need blood from the Blood Bank **CALL** the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

TO THE EDITOR

STRAIGHTENED OUT

Please accept my sincere thanks for the check received from the Health Plan which was a great help in getting myself straightened out financially; also for the Blood and the very kind gift to me while I was in the hospital. Am still on crutches, but hope to be able to dispose of them shortly.

Sincerely,
Cecile Fairchild, FSD

NO CARD

Please accept my sincere thanks for the wonderful way Local 1-S and our wonderful Health Plan has helped in my obtaining this treatment at the Parsons Hospital recently. Although not all better yet, I am home to gain some strength and may have to go back as soon as I am strong enough.

Yours truly,

Lee Deutsch, Tables
P.S. Didn't even get a card from the Union, of which I'm a member for nine years.

Note: In every case of illness reported by the Shop Stewards, the Welfare Board acts promptly. Any breakdown in this usually fine system is sincerely regretted.

THANKS

I wish to express my thanks to Local 1-S for the speedy assistance in handling my claims and mailing the check during my recent illness.

I also wish to thank the members of the Welfare Board and my co-workers for the lovely gifts and cards.

Sincerely,
Olivia E. James, CDS3

IT GRIEVES ME

Dear Mr. Kovenetsky:

I have just come from our Union office and it grieves me to write you this note. After all, you have plenty to do, but who else should know about this complaint.

Perhaps you have failed to notice the condition of our front win-

dows and the front swinging doors. I usually go to our office in the evening and therefore did not notice this myself, but they certainly need a grand cleaning.

We were very proud of our "new headquarters", but it certainly is getting to look like the previous rat-trap on 33rd Street, from sheer neglect.

Please, Mr. "K", can't we have these front windows (and doors) cleaned occasionally. We spend money for this and that, so why not keep our headquarters inviting.

Helen Brinke, 137-07

Note: A cleaning service keeps our Union clean—windows and all. Come again, soon, and see for yourself.

EXTRA SPECIAL HELP

Many thanks to Local 1-S for the help they gave me, also many thanks for the physician they recommended and the fine way he treated me. Many thanks to Mable Murther for her extra special help, and also my thanks to the Health Plan for paying my doctor when I was in the hospital. That sure was a great help.

Gratefully,
Mrs. Lily Sawitz, 287-05

VERY HANDY

This is to acknowledge receipt of Health Plan check, for which I thank you very much—it came in very handy.

May Local 1-S and the Health Plan have continued success.

I wish to thank Local 1-S for the Get-Well card sent me while I was in the hospital.

Many thanks again. I am,
Sincerely,
Dorothea C. Dolan, P10

SECOND TIME

I want to take this opportunity, once again, to thank Local 1-S for the way the Group Health responded with payment pertaining

to the surgery needed by my wife.

This is the second time my wife has used the Health Plan and she has asked me to express our joint appreciation for one of the biggest gains Local 1-S has won. She also states the visiting nurse service, which is a part of the Health Plan, is wonderful.

I would also like to thank our Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant for her much appreciated advice.

Sincerely yours,
Alphonso Ramsey, Rcvg.

REASSURING

I wish to express my appreciation to the Health Plan office for the very prompt attention given a claim I submitted recently. Also my thanks for check received.

It is very reassuring to know that not only do we have good coverage through the Health Plan, but also that our claims are speedily dealt with.

Very truly yours,
Henry Baron, P12

SUDDEN ILLNESS

I am enclosing my GHI claim form properly filled out, which I know will be taken care of, as it has in the past. In the past two years or so both my husband and I have had the misfortune of sudden illness and the Health Plan and our wonderful Local 1-S have come to our rescue in every instance, for which we are ever so grateful.

At present, while I am convalescing, my husband is again ill, having collapsed on Thanksgiving Day from internal loss of blood. He has returned from the hospital but is still under doctor's care. He needed a transfusion and again the Health Plan came to our aid through the Blood Bank.

All I can say is many thanks to all concerned.

Sincerely,
Bertha Palmer, 38-59

ent
ded
the

ND

Pl

Auditor

Auditor

Conf

Auditor

Conf

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

Auditor

has voted
meeting
board. The
can Pat
tions and

OFFICIAL
All future
elections

ung com
if possi

Irene B

et. Elev
onable. C

te entr

h in per
P.M.

Good conf

t the Uni
l on the b
he 15th w
is is off
for perso

e doctor,
Office —
U 8-4210
n request
ink CALL